

Bulletin

JANUARY 27, 1949

TEVET 26, 5709

Congregation Urged to Support UJA Drive

In view of the urgency of the current United Jewish Appeal program, the BULLETIN is printing a letter recently received from Paris. These are the words of Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. They are direct and simple, and clearly tell the reasons why you should immediately redeem your pledge to the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

"The JDC representatives are here in Paris from every part of Europe and they give a tremendously exciting picture of what is going on—men and women leaving the DP camps at the rate of more than 15,000 a month—trains and ships transporting them to Israel and to the United States.

UJA Pledges Must Be Redeemed

"This work can continue, however, only if we are assured a steady supply of cash from America. The generous UJA pledges made in the 1948 campaign must be redeemed at once."

This should be sufficient prompting for you to fulfill your responsibility and to help in the life-saving work of the UJA.

Please don't delay. Your money is urgently needed.

The United Jewish Appeal is the united drive which supports the activities of the Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and United Service for New Americans.

Annual Meeting and Congregational Dinner Held in Synagogue, Dr. E. D. Friedman Speaker

The sixty-seventh annual meeting of the Park Avenue Synagogue and the third held in conjunction with the Annual Congregational Dinner took place on Sunday evening, January 23rd.

Bulletin Board

Gift of Junior League

The Junior League formally presented the Synagogue with a beautiful bronze Bulletin Board at the recent Annual Congregational Meeting. The President, Dudley L. Greenstein, in presenting this bronze Board stated that the League, as one of the member groups of the Synagogue, desired to fulfill a long-standing requirement in the physical facilities of the Synagogue.

This Board, which will be kept in the lobby, is designed to keep the Congregation aware of the activities of the various organizations in the Synagogue; their programs, meeting dates and vital information. All organizations are urgently requested to keep the Synagogue office informed of their activities so that the Bulletin Board may serve its purpose.

Dr. E. D. Friedman delivered the feature address and Mr. Benjamin Sack as Chairman of the Board of Trustees rendered a brief report summarizing succinctly the annual reports of the chairman of the various committees.

The names of the officers elected during the business portion of the meeting will be published in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

Symposium Highlights Evening

Following the business meeting a symposium was held under the leadership of Mr. Harold Levin, former chairman of the Adult Education Committee. The topic "Shall the Congregation Adopt Procedure of Unassigned Pews", a provocative subject which was first propounded by Rabbi Milton Steinberg in his column in the November 4th issue of the BULLETIN last year, was supported by Mrs. Henry Howe and Mr. Dudley Greenstein. Taking the opposite viewpoint were Mrs. Edward Peiper and Dr. Theodore Kaplan. Members of the Congregation then participated with the forum speakers in a question and answer session.

Harold Levin Honored

The meeting of the Adult Education Committee was in the form of a farewell for Mr. Harold Levin, retiring chairman. In behalf of the Committee Rabbi Milton Steinberg presented Mr. Levin with a briefcase.

Rabbi Kertzer paid tribute to the retiring chairman for his inspired leadership during the past four years. During Harold Levin's incumbency, the committee has seen many significant new developments in the educational activities of our Congregation.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve Friday, January 28th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on
"Torah out of Berlin"

Sabbath Eve Friday, February 4th, 8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on
"Mercy Killings"

Sabbath Morning Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation Service at 10:30 a.m.
Musical portion of Service under direction of Cantor
Putterman, assisted by choir. Mr. Isidor Geller at
the organ.

Daily Evening Worship 5:45 p.m.

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D. LEONARD COHEN

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HAROLD E. WARSHAW, Associate Editor

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Contributors

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BEATRICE GEVIRTZ	MURIEL GOLD

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From The Desk of Rabbi Kertzer

At a recent Conference on Education sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly, one of our leading educators spoke about the difficulty of transmitting an enthusiasm for Judaism and the Jewish heritage when the teacher and parent have none of it. He quoted the story of Samuel Johnson who once said of music: "Of all the noises in the world, I have found music to be the least disagreeable." One doubts if Dr. Johnson would infect many of his disciples with a love for music. I was reminded of this story at the last meeting of our Parents' Association when, in response to Rabbi Steinberg's brilliant analysis of problems confronting the Jewish parents in giving their children a healthy-minded attitude towards God and the Bible, many parents asked the obvious question "How can we communicate ideas and ideals to our children unless we are at home in them ourselves?"

The answer lies not in a general program of adult education but in a *specific* program of parent education. Several schools require the parents of the confirmation class to attend a parallel class as faithfully and regularly as their children. Dr. Ira Eisenstein of the Society for Advancement of Judaism has a similar intensive program of parent education.

I think that it is not unfair for the Religious School to say to the parent who presents his child for registration: "We are not *baale nes*, miracle workers, we cannot possibly convey to your child an age-long heritage unless he finds in his

We Stand Corrected !

Eleven-year old Sandra Gervitz has confounded the sages of the BULLETIN staff. According to a recent letter she wrote to the Editor, it would seem that the BULLETIN staff is living a year behind the times.

This was at first scoffed at by the scribes, but after a careful check of the situation they sheepishly admitted that the dateline of the BULLETIN, which for the past few months listed the present Jewish year as 5708, should be 5709.

home the congenial atmosphere for his newly discovered ideas and values. The business of educating your child is a partnership — a school-parent partnership; unless you are ready to equip yourself for your role in that process, we are not ready to enter into the partnership."

Of course, this is obviously an extreme position. And yet I think that neither an impractical one nor an unfair demand upon parents who are sincere in their desire for adequate Jewish training for their children.

Let me suggest this as a compromise. The Parents' Association should plan to inaugurate next year an ambitious program of courses that would be taken seriously and attended faithfully. When the day comes when every mother is enrolled in the school we may well deserve the title of *baale nes*, miracle workers of our generation.

Rabbi and Cantor Seen on Television

On Sunday, January 30th, the Post Bar Mitzvah Club will witness the television broadcast in which Rabbi Kertzer and Cantor Putterman will participate. This chapel program is being televised on Station WPIX channel 11, at 6:00 p.m. The theme will be *Sabbath* in a Jewish Home and should prove of interest to Jews and non-Jews alike.

Officers of the Group

At a recent meeting of the Post Bar Mitzvah Club the following officers were elected: President, Carl Seligson; Vice President, Lewis Honig; Secretary, Louis Brause; Treasurer, Charles Witte; Program chairman, Jack Kaplan.

Imported Handicraft From Israel on Sale

Only Shipment to Reach U. S.

Many colorful articles, imported from Israel, are now on display in the lobby of the Synagogue. Included among them are hand-painted porcelain bowls, Passover plates, cigarette and powder jars, candy dishes, porcelain *menorahs*, and book marks. Each of these recently arrived items is for sale through Mrs. Irma Heller of the Sisterhood. Prices are said to compare favorably with those in New York gift shops. This sale is being conducted under the auspices of the Offering and Emergency Fund for the Blind.

Products of Expert Craftsmen

Although the first boatload of handicraft objects, similar to those now on display, was confiscated en route by the Egyptian government, another shipment managed to reach this country before hostilities broke out in the new state of Israel. Future imports of this type await the return of peace.

Those responsible for the manufacture of handicraft in Israel are expert craftsmen who learned their trade in the great European pottery centers. The promotion of the work of these craftsmen is sponsored by Palestine Arts and Crafts Agency.

Congregational Seder To Be Held April 14th

At its last meeting the Ritual Committee decided to sponsor a communal *Seder* on the second night of Passover, Thursday, April 14th. The *Seder* will be conducted by the Rabbis and the Cantor, and promises to be a significant event in the life of the Congregation.

Members are urged to submit their reservations early because of the limited capacity of the Vestry.

M. Weill Makes Appeal

Milton Weill made an eloquent appeal for the U.S.O. at the Convention of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations. The theme of the convention was Education for Living.

Sisterhood to Meet at Annual Birthday Party

On Tuesday, February 15th, the Sisterhood will hold its annual Birthday Party. Mrs. Samuel Wimpfheimer is Chairman of this festive occasion. Again, as in the past, each month of the year will have its own decorated table and birthday cake, with a hostess presiding at each table.

There will be fine entertainment. The afternoon will not only be an important occasion—one filled with surprises—but a colorful one as well.

Leave your cares at home and spend an afternoon of fun with Sisterhood!

Religious Training Is Theme of Rabbi's Talk

The Parents' Association was privileged to have Rabbi Milton Steinberg as guest speaker at one of their recent meetings. In developing his topic, "God, the Bible and Your Child", Rabbi Steinberg immeasurably enriched the spiritual concepts of the parents. At the same time, with characteristic clarity and simplicity, he related the concepts of God and the Bible to the understanding of the child at varying age levels.

Rabbi Steinberg revealed that the philosophy of the Congregation is explained to the teachers, and that while they are free to impart their own ideals and precepts, they are nevertheless asked to present the concepts of Reconstructionist teachings, which state, basically, that Judaism is an evolving religion. In developing his theme, Rabbi Steinberg had anticipated many of the perplexing problems which confront parents in the religious and spiritual guidance of their children. His talk was rich in the presentation of these problems, and very generous in suggestions for solution.

Announce New Procedure

The Ritual Committee has announced that in the future Bibles will be distributed in the rear of the auditorium and will not be available in the pews. Congregants are asked to obtain their Bibles as they enter the auditorium.

Sisterhood Luncheon Is Coming Soon!

It's come by the **DOZEN**! It's a wonderful buy!

Smart people approve it! And they know why!

So join them March Thirtieth! The Biltmore's where you'll sit!

And cheer the **TWELFTH** Luncheon! Sounds good, **DOZEN'T** it?

Junior League Host To Y P L Groups

On Sunday evening, January 30th, the Junior League will hold a special meeting with Rabbi Simon Noveck as its guest speaker. For this meeting, the League will act as host to the members and delegates of the National Young People's League who shall be attending a national meeting that afternoon.

Rabbi Noveck of the Congregation *B'nai Israel* of Freeport, Long Island, is no stranger to the Junior League and to various Y.P.L.ers, having spoken as their guest a few years ago. All members of Leagues in Y.P.L. are invited to attend and hear Rabbi Noveck's stimulating talk. The meeting will start at 8:30 p.m. in the Vestry. The Y.P.L. card will serve as a ticket of admission.

On Thursday evening, February 3rd, Rabbi Kertzer will be the guest speaker at the Junior League's Home Study Course. All members of the League are invited to attend this meeting which will take place in the Vestry at 8:30 p.m.

Explain Requirements For Bar Mitzvah Studies

The School Board and the Rabbis of the Synagogue have long been deeply concerned with the problem of intensifying the Jewish instruction given to our children so that they may be better prepared for a positive Jewish life. With this aim in view, mid-week instruction in Hebrew was added to the curriculum and was made obligatory for children in the age groups of 10, 11, and 12. *Bar Mitzvah* and *Bas Mitzvah* requirements were raised to include three years of instruction in Hebrew School and Sunday School and a minimum of 2 years of instruction in Hebrew was made a requisite for Confirmation in the Park Avenue Synagogue. Parents of children approaching *Bar Mitzvah* or Confirmation age, should take note of these school requirements.

Film on Haym Solomon Starts Movie Program

The Religious School has recently acquired a 16 mm movie-sound projector which is one of the finest obtainable. It will help to make instruction more vivid and vital to the students, and will certainly add much interest to the Assembly programs of the School.

A complete program of educational films will be incorporated in the curriculum and will be shown at regular intervals during the remainder of the school year.

Students to Operate Machine

The inaugural program, Sunday, January 16th consisted of a technicolor film "Sons of Liberty", starring Claude Rains in the role of Haym Salomon, the Revolutionary War hero, whose birthday is celebrated this month. As a special treat a musical cartoon was also shown.

Members of the Post *Bar Mitzvah* club are being trained to help in the operation of the machine.

School Library Features Portable Book Cart

The Parents' Association is pleased to report that the Religious School Library is now in efficient operation for the benefit of pupils, teachers and parents. In addition to the permanent bookshelves, the portable library cart is being greeted with enthusiasm in the classrooms into which it is wheeled each Sunday morning. Parents are asked to cooperate by urging their youngsters to return the books when due. Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, Chairman of this project, would welcome additional Parent assistance in the preparation and distribution of books. Parents desiring to volunteer their services are urged to contact Mrs. Wimpfheimer at AT 9-4743.

Men's Club Hears Mrs. Jacoby on China

On Tuesday evening, January 18th, the Men's Club had an enjoyable meeting at which the guest speaker was Mrs. Annalee Jacoby. Well-known foreign correspondent and co-author of the best-seller "Thunder Over China," she presented a most interesting talk on the topic "Is China Behind The Iron Curtain—What Should Be Our Policy Towards China?"

Mrs. Jacoby, who spent several years in China and who knows first-hand the principal personalities involved as well as the many problems present, feels that China has now become an insoluble problem. There is nothing that the United States can do now which will affect the surging rise of Communist successes.

Inasmuch as the China situation is a fait accompli, Mrs. Jacoby urges support for the world federalist movement. This, she feels, is the only salvation today; the only way to prevent situations similar to the China problem from occurring again. She feels that only by strongly striving for peace and by actually giving up to a world organization as the UN the sovereign right of making war can a world peace be achieved.

Adopt Jewish Community at "Levittown" Project

The Men's Club meeting was held prior to Mrs. Jacoby's talk. President Victor Herwitz reported on the activities of the Executive Board and specifically brought up for discussion a proposed project which the group could adopt. This project which was ratified at the meeting for further investigation is that the Men's Club adopt the Jewish community of Levittown on Long Island. This would mean helping them to organize properly, aiding them financially, or any other ways which might be possible.

Mr. Archie Thurman, the Chairman of the theatre party, reported that despite poor cooperation on the part of the membership, a profit of slightly over \$1,000 was realized. However, had the proper support been given this function, a better fund would be available for any project decided upon.

For Your Information

The following articles were taken from the bulletin of information put out by United Synagogue Features. This is a news service recently instituted by the National Office of the United Synagogue of America.

United Synagogue is an organization made up of Conservative Synagogues throughout the United States. The Park Avenue Synagogue is also one of its members.

Permission is granted for the free use of any articles published in the United Synagogue Features.—EDITOR'S NOTE

Israel and the Nations

"The Jew has made a marvellous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendour, then faded to dreamstuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind."

—MARK TWAIN, 1898...

Dates to Remember

January 4, 1786—The philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, the "first of modern Jews", died.

January 5, 1895—Degradation of Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the French Theodore Herzl witnessed the degradation and received here the decisive impulse to start the Zionist movement.

January 6, 1785—Haym Solomon, Jewish patriot in the time of the American Revolution, died.

January 11, —Asarah Be-Tevet (Commemoration of the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B. C. E.)

January 11, 1873—Haym Nachman Bialik, famous Hebrew poet, born.

January 21, 1204—Maimonides, "the Foremost Jew of the Middle Ages" died.

January 29, 1927—Achad Haam, prominent Zionist writer, died.

Births

Our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Narins on the birth of their daughter; and to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Heyman on the birth of a granddaughter.

Engagements

Felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Finn whose son, Martin, has announced his engagement to Miss Susanne Straus; and to Mrs. George Newman whose son, Robert, has become engaged.

Marriage

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Tuchman on the marriage of their son.

Anniversaries

Sincere good wishes are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Frankel who will celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary on February 4th; and to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sack for whom February 23rd will mark thirty years of marriage.

Mr. Jacob Klein has been appointed as a delegate to the Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue of America, representing our Synagogue.

All congregants are invited to see our streamlined kitchen. It has been redecorated by Mrs. Ethel Sivek, chairman of this Sisterhood enterprise, and is really a sight to see!

More volunteers are needed for reading to the blind on Wednesdays. Please contact Sisterhood if you are available for this work.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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MORRIS N. KERTZER

Rabbis

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Cantor

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*Address all communications to
EMANUEL ROSENTHAL, Secretary*